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Dutch Self-Taught. With Phonetic Pronunciation. By Captain C. A. Thimm. 120 pp. E. Marlborough & Co., 51 Old Bailey, E. C., London, 1904. (Price, 70 cents.)

Japanese Grammar Self-Taught. (In Roman Characters.) With Phrases and Idioms. By H. J. Weintz. 184 pp. Same Publisher and date. (Price, \$1.50.)

These small volumes are part of a series of manuals covering most of the European languages, including Turkish, and also Arabic and Hindustani. The vocabularies embrace most of the words used in ordinary conversation. The pronunciation, phonetically expressed with each word, is very helpful, the grammar gives the elementary training required, and the method encourages the use of the spoken language. The books should be especially useful to travellers and merchants. The author of "Japanese Grammar Self-Taught" says of the Japanese language:

The simplicity of the language is shown by such facts as that there is only one person in each tense, no long lists of exceptions to rules, and that it is purely phonetic. One may make himself perfectly understood after far less time spent in study than is necessary in the case of any European language. Of course, to attain anything approaching syntactical accuracy a much longer course of study is necessary than for obtaining an equal degree of proficiency in French, German or Spanish.

Our West Indian Neighbors. By Frederick A. Ober. 433 pp., 54 illustrations, map, and index. James Pott & Co., New York, 1904. (Price, \$2.50 net.)

The work of a well-known descriptive writer, who lived for two years in the West Indies, making ornithological collections, and who has since refreshed his impressions of that island-world and received many new ones. The purpose of the book is not especially serious, but those who read its entertaining pages will not fail to catch many vivid glimpses of the Caribbean Islands, and understand why they have so much fascination for the nature-lover and the traveller. Mr. Ober thinks that the two great attractions of Porto Rico (he spells it, in defiance of Congress, Puerto Rico) are the city of San Juan and the military road over the mountains between that city and Poncé. He finds Jamaica the paradise of cyclist, automobilist, and pedestrian. He was the first American to see the now famous boiling lake of Dominica, and his fine photograph of it is one of the most interesting of the many excellent illustrations. He says the American colonists in Cuba appear to be flourishing, and have proved that Americans can thrive there, and that the island has in it the making of many a fortune.